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WOOD BUFFALO National Park

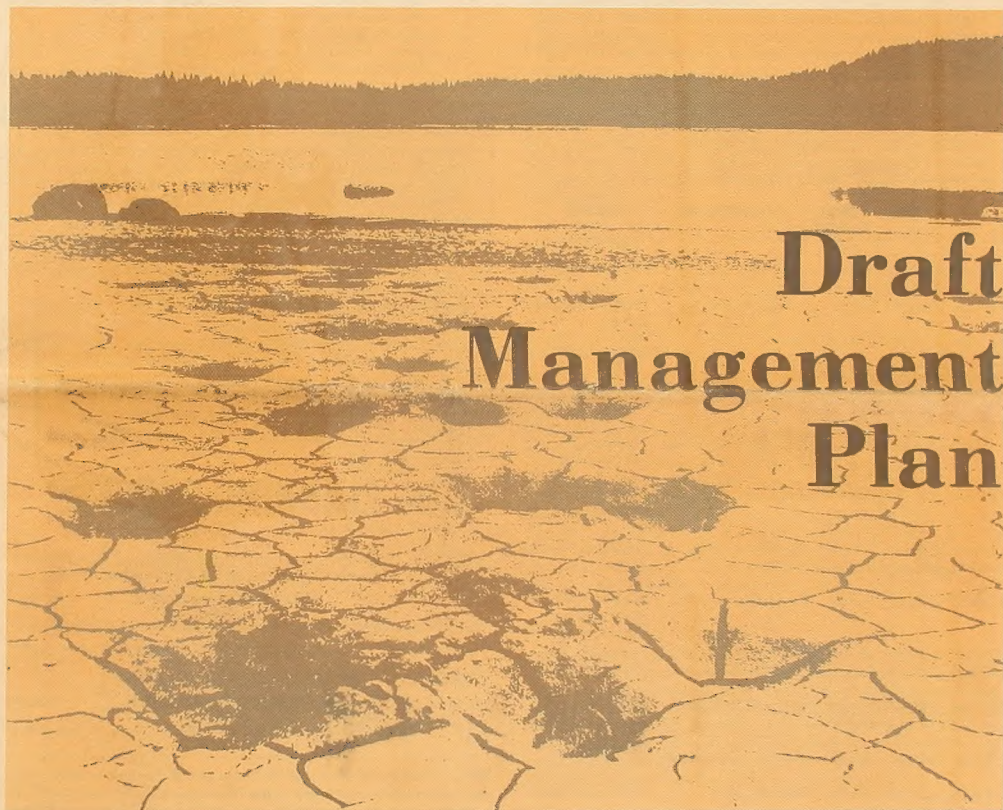
Sept. 1982

PARKS CANADA IS PLANNING
FOR THE FUTURE OF WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL
PARK AND WE NEED YOUR HELP.

PARCS CANADA SOLICITE VOTRE COLLABORATION
AUX PLANS D'AVENIR QU'IL EST EN
TRAIN D'ELABORER POUR LE PARC NATIONAL
WOOD BUFFALO.

No. 7

KENETAWAYMITINAN TA WECHHEAK OMA
KAWAY WEASCHEKIAK OCHE WOOD
BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK.



Draft Management Plan

Parks Canada is developing a long-range management plan for Wood Buffalo National Park. This is the seventh newsletter published by Parks Canada to keep you up-to-date and to help you participate in the preparation of the plan.

During the first stage of the planning program, the planning team held public meetings to hear your views on issues facing the Park and ideas for resolving these issues. In November, 1981 Parks Canada published a newsletter describing various means of resolving these issues and for meeting the Park purpose and objectives. These proposals took into account your comments, Parks Canada legislation and policy, data on the natural resources of the Park, the Park's role in the region and the national park system, and other factors.

The plan proposals were examined and assessed by you last fall and winter in public meetings hosted by Parks Canada. Some people also mailed their written suggestions to the Parks Canada planning team.

The results of this public review were summarized in Newsletter No. 6 issued in June, 1982.

Now it is time for you to review the draft management plan. This draft plan has attempted to incorporate your comments from the last stage of the planning program to the extent that government fiscal and Parks Canada policies permit.

The draft management plan will be the subject of the last round of public meetings this fall. The meeting schedule is presented elsewhere in this newsletter. Please read and consider recommendations of the planning team in the draft plan and express your views on them to us either at public meetings or in writing. Your comments are important. They will be used when we prepare the final park management plan for approval of the Minister responsible for Parks Canada. Your views will again be presented in a newsletter that will be published after the public meetings.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN

- Write your comments on the newsletter in the spaces provided, fold it and mail it back to us. Postage will be paid by Parks Canada.
- Attend a public meeting or an open house. The meeting schedule is shown below and is repeated on the last page. These meetings will be recorded and your comments will be included in the typed transcripts.
- Write a letter or a brief and mail it to the Wood Buffalo Management Planning Program, Box 750, Fort Smith, N.W.T., XOE OPO. Your submission will be acknowledged and will be considered in preparing the final management plan.
- Request a special meeting with the planning team. We can be contacted at the above address or by phoning (403) 872-2349.
- Meetings with specific groups who have participated in the program will be arranged by the Planning Team. These will be organized to coincide with regular meetings of these groups and organizations.

WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK PROPOSED MANAGEMENT PLAN MEETING SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	TYPE OF MEETING	CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE	LOCATION
13 Sept.	7:30 pm	Public	Peace Point	Public School
15 Sept.	7:30 pm	Public	Fort Smith, N.W.T.	PWK High School (Foyer)
16 Sept.	2:30 pm	Drop-In	Fort Smith, N.W.T.	PWK High School (Resource Centre)
20 Sept.	7:30 pm	Public	Pine Point, N.W.T.	Matonabee School
21 Sept.	7:30 pm	Public	Fort Vermillion, Alta.	St. Mary's Separate School
22 Sept.	7:30 pm	Public	High Level, Alta.	High Level Public School
23 Sept.	7:30 pm	Public	Hay River, N.W.T.	Parmigan Inn
24 Sept.	2:30 pm	Public	Hay River, N.W.T.	Band Hall
28 Sept.	7:30 pm	Public	Fort McMurray, Alta.	Peter Pond Hotel (Meeting Room)
29 Sept.	6:30 pm	Public	Fort Chipewyan, Alta.	Public School
30 Sept.	2:30 pm	Drop-In	Fort Chipewyan, Alta.	Public School
07 Oct.	7:30 pm	Public/ Drop-In	Yellowknife, N.W.T.	Room 206 - North. United Pl.
12 Oct.	2:00 pm	Public	Garden Creek, WBNP	R.C. Church
13 Oct.	2:00 pm	Public	Fox Lake, Alta.	JBS School-library
14 Oct.	7:30 pm	Public	Jean D'Or Prairie, Alta.	School Gym
18 Oct.	7:00 pm	Public	Fort Resolution, N.W.T.	Deninoo School
19 Oct.	7:30 pm	Public	Edmonton, Alta.	Provincial Museum Auditor.
20 Oct.	2:00 pm	Drop-In	Edmonton, Alta.	Music Rm., Library 7 Churchill Sq.
21 Oct.	7:30 pm	Public	Calgary, Alta.	Highlander Motor Hotel

- Talk to the local Liaison Officer for your community or group if you reside in the region of the Park. These people have received additional information on the planning program and are knowledgeable about the draft management plan. They can answer your questions and can pass on your comments and suggestions to us.

The Local Liaison Officers have been appointed to ensure that local communities and groups who are most affected by the Park management plan are kept informed, understand its content and are able to participate in the planning process.

The following people are local Liaison Officers:

Jackson Whiteknife	Fort Chipewyan
Cathy MacDonald	Fort Smith
Simon Nanooch	Garden Creek
Margaret Vermillion	Fort Chipewyan
John James Antoine	Peace Point
Sharon Dragon	Pine Point
Rene Mercredi	Fort Smith

OMA ACIMO-ESINAHIKAN, MWAY CI TEPAKOHPIWAW E MAS-
INAHIKATEK PAKE OCI Wood Buffalo National Park KAWI WI-
ASCIKEK KA WI MAMISKOTA-MIK TANISI TA SI MIYOPIYIK
EKONI OHI WE-ASCIKAWINA KAKI MAMISKOTAMAK PIPONOK.
ACIMO-ESINAHIKANIKH WICKATAYO TANSI TA-SI MEYOPAYIK
KAKE PA-NESOKAMAKAYAK MISTAH NE-TAPACHIKONAN.
EKONIK OKI OWEHOWINIWAW OTA CAPSIS KA MASINAH-
IKATAKIK CASIY KANAWAPATAMOK, EKWSI KA KI WETAMAK-
OWAWAK, PA PEKISWASIK, WETAMAW TANSI E-ITAYITAMAN
TA WETA MOWAWAK Parks Canada Planning Team.
KAKI ITOTAN MAMO APIWINIK ITA KA WEKEYIN, EKWA KA KI
WETAMOWAK TANSI E-ITAYITA MAN.
KI PEKISIWAWINOWAW MISTA HI NETA WAY CIKATAWA PAM-
AYES KISA SICKATAK OMA WE-ASCIKWIN Wood Buffalo
National Park OCI. MITONI KWAYASK TA MAMITON AYCICA-
TAYO PAMAYES KA NEKANISKA AWA Parks Canada TA WETA-
MAT.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

STAGE 1: PREPARING PARK PURPOSE & OBJECTIVE STATEMENTS IDENTIFYING ISSUES & COLLECTING INFORMATION

PUBLIC REVIEW & COMMENT

Winter 1981

STAGE 2: PREPARING ALTERNATIVE PLANS TO SOLVE PROBLEMS

PUBLIC REVIEW & COMMENT

Fall/Winter 1982

STAGE 3: SELECTING A FINAL PARK PLAN

PUBLIC REVIEW & COMMENT

Fall 1982

FINAL APPROVAL

Winter 1982

We are now in the third and last stage of the planning process. The recommendations presented in this newsletter are refinements of, or selections from the alternative proposals that were presented during the previous stage of the planning program. They will form the basis for the final management plan. After hearing your comments on these recommendations, we will amend and refine the draft plan to produce the final park management plan. This plan will be submitted to the Minister responsible for Parks Canada for approval. After it has been approved, we will publish and distribute a summary of the decisions contained in the plan for you. You will also be asked to evaluate this planning and public participation program so that we can do our work better in the future, when carrying out other planning programs at other National Parks.

The approved plan will be put into effect over a period of years. The implementation schedule depends on the financial resources made available to Parks Canada. The plan itself will be formally reviewed every five years and revisions made if required. The plan is intended to guide the development and management of Wood Buffalo National Park for the next ten to fifteen years.

CET BULLETIN DE NOUVELLES
EST AUSSI DISPONIBLE
EN FRANÇAIS.

DRAFT PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

REGIONAL AND INTERNAL ROADS

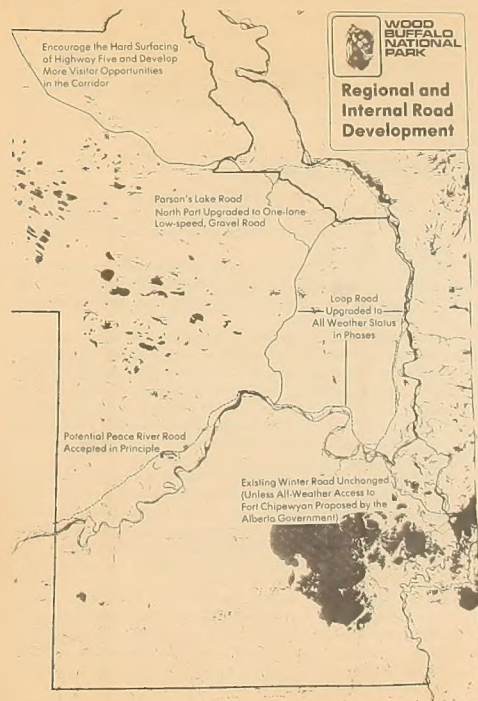
OBJECTIVE:

To define new roads or alternatives to existing roads that may be required to provide adequate access to the Park resources while also ensuring the protection of those resources.

CONSIDERATIONS:

New demands on the existing park road network reflect the growth of regional communities and the desire for increased tourist traffic. The economic benefits of better access to southern Canada for regional communities, the cost of constructing, maintaining and upgrading roads, Parks Canada policy, the desire of the public to gain easier access to Park resources, the protection of those same resources and considerations of regional transportation networks have all contributed to the definition of the recommendations proposed.

Public comments on the proposals for existing roads generally favoured improvements. The proposal for new roads however generated both positive and negative reaction. Communities adjacent to the Park strongly favoured development of the access route while communities along the route were opposed to it. Comments from more distant centres such as Calgary and Edmonton, also rejected the proposal.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

HIGHWAY FIVE

Parks Canada will support the proposal by the Government of the Northwest Territories to hard surface Highway Five. This will reduce the environmental impact of the existing road on Park land and improve the quality of the driving experience for regional residents and Park visitors. Design and technical assistance will be provided by Parks Canada if required. The Park will develop improved visitor and interpretive facilities along the highway which may include exhibits, trails and picnic areas.

LOOP ROAD

The Loop Road will be upgraded by Parks Canada to a reliable all-weather road. The sections of the road that have the greatest use will be upgraded first.

WINTER ROAD

The winter road through the Park to Fort Chipewyan will remain essentially unchanged. Minor improvements to the road will be undertaken as required.

Parks Canada would support a proposal by the Government of Alberta to relocate the winter road to the east side of the Slave River. Parks Canada would construct and maintain a connecting road from the existing Loop Road to the Slave River just north of the Peace River to facilitate the relocation of the winter road. If Alberta were to provide all-weather access to Fort Chipewyan from Fort Smith, Parks Canada would support that proposal in principle, recognizing that the existing section of winter road south of the Peace River could not provide a base for an all-weather road and that an access road on the east side of the Slave River would require a ferry service.

NEW ROAD

Parks Canada accepts in principle, the construction of a road linking Alberta Highway 58 to Peace Point in view of its potential importance as a component of the regional transportation network. The impact of the road on the community of Garden Creek will be an important factor in Parks Canada decision to permit the road to be constructed. Parks Canada will not participate financially in the construction or future maintenance of the road, but may provide funds for design assistance and visitor use requirements in the travel corridor.

COMMENTS: *(Write your comments here)*

RAINBOW LAKES DEVELOPMENT

OBJECTIVE:

To determine the appropriate level of access and facility development for the Rainbow Lakes area.

CONSIDERATIONS:

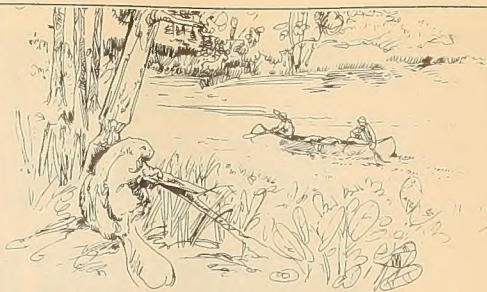
These five small sinkhole lakes are presently visited by a small number of local residents and tourists each summer. Most of the visitors to the area fish for trout which were at one time stocked in the largest of the lakes. Access to the area is by foot along a cutline from the Pine Lake road. This cutline is part of a hiking trail system under development in the area.

Public opinion was divided on the Rainbow Lakes. Some supported more development and use while others favoured limited development, non-motorized access to the area and no fish stocking. The recommendations which follow propose a moderate level of development and activity. More intensive uses are provided for at Pine Lake while wilderness opportunities are available in the back country of the Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Parks Canada will provide visitor facilities and access to the Rainbow Lakes consistent with its resource protection mandate and the present and projected levels of public demand for use of the lakes.
2. Hiking trail access to the Rainbow Lakes will be upgraded and a 3 to 5 site primitive campground will be established at the first of the five lakes. The hiking trail system in the area will be developed to provide access to the other four lakes, adjacent karst terrain, the escarpment and salt plains. Additional primitive campsites may be provided on the hiking trail system.
3. A fish stocking program will not be undertaken. Only non-motorized watercraft will be permitted on the lakes. The access trail will be maintained at a standard that will permit the use of bicycles. Camping at the lake will be managed through the issuance of backcountry permits. Interpretation of the area will occur by means of offsite facilities or hiking trail literature.
4. Parks Canada will invite submissions from local tourist outfitters for the establishment of a canoe concession at the lakes. The mechanism for the operation of the concession will be determined jointly by Parks Canada and the outfitter.
5. Road access to the lakes will not be provided. Pine Lake will provide fishing and camping opportunities accessible by road while the Rainbow Lakes area will cater to Park visitors seeking less developed facilities with non-motorized access.

COMMENTS: *(Write your comments here)*



HIGHWAY 5 CORRIDOR NORTH END DEVELOPMENT

OBJECTIVE:

To provide appropriate levels and types of visitor facilities in the north end of the Park and along the Highway 5 corridor in order to increase visitor enjoyment and understanding of the Park resources of this area.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Highway 5 extends across the north end of the Park, providing access to Fort Smith. Tourists entering the Park along this road have only limited opportunities to become aware of Park resources until they reach Fort Smith. Also, residents of communities north of the Park have expressed a desire for Park facilities to be developed closer to their homes.

In determining the proper level of development Parks Canada took into consideration the limited number of visitors to the area, the significance and nature of the resources in this area and the requirement to inform the public about the Park and its resources. Also considered was public input which generally favoured the development of modest interpretive and visitor facilities along the roadway corridor. All public comment expressed the concern that the whooping crane nesting habitat not be negatively affected by any development.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. An interpretation facility will be developed at Angus Tower to interpret the large sinkhole at that site, the karst terrain in general and fire ecology. The facility will also orient Park visitors to the Park as a whole.
Some day use facilities such as picnic sites will be developed further. Detailed studies will be undertaken to determine the feasibility of building an interpretation trail to the sulphur spring and other nearby karst features.
2. A short interpretation trail will be constructed to allow visitors to experience an example of typical whooping crane nesting habitat. Extreme care will be taken in locating and developing the trail to ensure that the actual nesting area is not disturbed. At present, no whooping crane's nest is within four to five miles of any probable trail site. If the cranes were to expand their nesting area in the future, the trail would be closed to the public or its location changed.
3. Additional measures will be taken to improve the general appeal of the Highway 5 corridor for visitors. These will include a road guide brochure relating the history and natural resources of the area, other roadside identification signs and small exhibits at locations such as Klewi Lake, Nyarling River and Sass River.
4. Hiking and primitive camping opportunities in the Needle Lake area will be promoted in the Park literature and at the Angus Tower interpretation facility. All backcountry facilities will remain at a primitive level compatible with the wilderness qualities of the area and the low level of public demand expected in the foreseeable future for such facilities. Motorized access to Needle Lake and the use of motorized watercraft on Needle Lake will not be actively promoted.

COMMENTS: *(Write your comments here)*

SALT PLAINS ACCESS AND USE/ PARSON'S LAKE ROAD

OBJECTIVE:

To provide an appropriate level of access to the Salt Plains, and suitable visitor facilities while still ensuring that this resource is protected.

CONSIDERATIONS:

The Salt Plains is a significant Park resource that is both attractive to Park visitors and capable of sustaining moderate levels of use. The Parson's Lake road extends from Highway 5 to the Park Loop Road. Although the driving surface is of low quality, the road passes through an area of karst land forms, provides access to the Salt Plains, and provides opportunities to view bison.

The potential of this area to support visitor use was recognized in the public comments. Upgraded access, promotion of the area as a site for interpretation and development of signs and exhibits, was supported by the majority of those who commented.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Parks Canada will upgrade the existing gravel road from Highway 5 to the Salt Plains overview to a low design speed. Parks Canada will provide interpretation facilities including exhibits and short trails at the Salt Plains overview to increase the public understanding and appreciation of the area.
2. Parks Canada will explore with the NWT and Alberta Governments the possibility of creating a scenic interpretive loop drive by upgrading the Mission Farm road and linking it to the Salt Plains overview road through construction of a bridge over the Salt River.
3. A public canoe launch will be constructed at the Salt River bridge to allow visitors to canoe up the saline creeks of the plains. Guided hikes to other parts of the Salt Plains will be provided through both the Park interpretation program and local tourist outfitters. All of these interpretation facilities and programs will be designed to minimize any possible environmental impact which may occur due to increased public use of the area.
4. Parks Canada will explore the feasibility of upgrading the remainder of the Parson's Lake road to a low speed gravel road, to create a longer scenic-interpretive drive. Prior to proceeding with this development, a comprehensive corridor study will be undertaken to determine if the proposal is practical from a visitor use point of view and to ensure that increased use of the area will not cause environmental deterioration.

COMMENTS: *(Write your comments here)*



PEACE-ATHABASCA DELTA

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Parks Canada will encourage the development of tourist outfitting for the Peace/Athabasca Delta based in Fort Chipewyan and Peace Point. These enterprises will employ local residents who can provide Park visitors with high quality backcountry experiences. During the summer they could provide guided tours of the delta while during the winter they could provide dog-sledding tours.

Specific access routes will be determined when the guiding licence is approved, and will depend upon current assessments of resource fragility, water levels and visitor acceptance. The routes of access will be restricted to areas of the delta designated as Zone III under the Land Use Zoning Proposals. It is expected that a corridor between Fort Chipewyan and Sweetgrass Station will provide the primary route across the delta.

2. Parks Canada will permit general public access to the delta under strictly regulated conditions. The delta will be permanently posted by the park superintendent as an area that members of the public can enter on their own only after receiving a backcountry use permit. Before receiving permits, visitors must assure the Park staff that they have the requisite experience, capability and self-support resources to travel in the demanding environment of the delta. At the time of application for a backcountry permit, potential visitors will also be provided with interpretation and orientation information and travel regulations, including search and rescue policies and route designations, to help ensure a safe and enjoyable park experience. Backcountry use permits will not be required for travel on navigable water ways but any travel west of Dog Camp or into tributary channels of the shield delta area will require such permission.

These recommendations do not apply to local residents engaged in traditional resource harvesting activities.

3. Parks Canada will prepare a comprehensive visitor's guide to the delta consisting of a travel map with interpretation and orientation information.
4. Modest visitor use facilities will be developed including:
 - i) Sweetgrass Station - primitive campground
 - ii) Moose Island - boat launch, campground and interpretation signage. The level of development of the campground will initially provide primitive campground facilities only.
 - iii) Small primitive campgrounds will be built at locations such as Dog Camp, Egg Lake, Push-up Lake, and Prairie River as the details of the access scheme are worked out and as demand levels are determined. In general, such developments will be minimized. The availability of alternative locations for primitive campsites will be determined if required to better regulate and direct visitor use patterns.
 - iv) Interpretation of the delta will occur at Fort Chipewyan, Moose Island and Embarras Portage. Additional on-site interpretation will not be required as the delta brochure will provide a more suitable form of interpretive information for the delta.

OBJECTIVE:

To identify the most appropriate type of facilities and the most suitable level of development so that the public can safely appreciate, enjoy, and obtain an understanding of this significant resource without damaging it.

CONSIDERATIONS:

The Peace/Athabasca Delta is one of the great freshwater deltas in the world and supports a diverse and delicate ecosystem. It provides outstanding opportunities for interpretation, nature study and similar low intensity public use activities. Although the delta has a potential for recreation and interpretation, these opportunities are limited by the very nature of those resources. These drawbacks include the fragility of the resources, the presence of hunting and trapping activities and the difficulty of navigating in the delta with its few land marks, shallow waters and sudden storms.

The visitor use proposals for the Peace/Athabasca Delta, such as interpretive facilities and brochures, launching ramps and primitive campgrounds, were widely supported in public comments and written input. However, there was widespread concern over the proposal that guides and outfitters would be required for travel in the delta. This measure was generally regarded as being too restrictive. Most comments did however, recognize the necessity of carefully controlling access for safety and enjoyment.

COMMENTS: *(Write your comments here)*

PINE LAKE

OBJECTIVE:

To determine the proper type and level of development for the Pine Lake recreation area which satisfies the desires of Park users, is responsive to Parks Canada's requirements and which will ensure the area remains attractive for future use.

CONSIDERATIONS:

The main public recreational development areas in the Park are located on the west and south shores of Pine Lake. This is one of the few lakes in the region accessible by road with good capability to attract and sustain general recreational use. It is used by both local residents and other Park visitors.

Public comment on the alternative plan proposal for the Pine Lake area was varied, however a majority of those who commented favoured retention of the existing day use area, and development of day use areas on the east side of the lake. Restrictions on motor boat use were also supported.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The recommendation for the Pine Lake cottage leases will result in the continuation of that land use. The projected demand for day use facilities is not sufficient to warrant a new relocated and larger day use area which would have required the removal of the cottages. It is therefore recommended that the day use area remain at its present location.
2. Additional day-use facilities will be developed on the east side of the lake. These will include boat-in or walk-in picnic sites.
3. Motor boating will be permitted to continue, except in the south bay of the lake, as long as this use does not affect the quality of the recreation experience of visitors to the lake.
4. Fish stocking will continue based on the requirement to maintain existing species. The possibility of developing a self-perpetuating population of native game fish in the lake will be assessed.
5. A walk-in tenting campsite will be developed at the south end of the lake.
6. The group campground facilities at the south end of the lake will be upgraded.
7. Interpretation trails in the campground area will be upgraded and completed.
8. The existing semi-serviced campground will remain the prime facility for general, vehicle-accessible camping in the Park. Parks Canada will carefully monitor the use of the campground and will develop additional sites, both vehicle-accessible and walk-in types, if demand warrants.

COMMENTS: (Write your comments here)

PINE LAKE COTTAGES

OBJECTIVE:

To find the appropriate policy to be applied to the existing 16 cottage lot leases currently in effect and due to expire in 1983 or 1984.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Sixteen privately owned cottages are located on the west shore of Pine Lake on lots leased from Parks Canada. These cottage leases expire in 1983 & 1984 and contain a sever and remove clause which requires the leaseholder to remove improvements from the lot upon the expiry of the lease. The leases were granted for a single term of 21 years and contain no provision for renewal.

Current Parks Canada policy does not encourage the leasing of additional Park lands for seasonal residences. However, Parks Canada is aware of the limited regional opportunities for this type of recreational activity and the traditional use of Pine Lake for cottage purposes. Parks Canada also recognizes the special status of lease holders and is aware of the fact that land under lease is not available for general public use and enjoyment.

Public comments on this issue were varied. Local residents strongly supported the most liberal extension of tenure possible while others felt that the private use of public lands should be ended, as provided for in the existing leases. Some non-local participants favoured extension of tenure, but only on a short term basis and subject to specific conditions to prevent future problems.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Parks Canada will enter into an agreement with the owners of the cottages on Pine Lake to permit them to use their cottages beyond the expiry date of their current lease. The land tenure agreement between Parks Canada and the current lease holders, *will be non-transferable and non-assignable.*
2. The agreement will extend until 1989. The five year review of the management plan prior to that date will provide the forum for reassessment of the agreement. The agreements may be renewed for another five years pending the outcome of the management plan review and if the land occupied by the cottage is not required for public purposes.
3. Specific provisions of the National Park Cottage Regulations will be implemented to ensure compatible developments and to safeguard environmental quality. These conditions would include measures to minimize shoreline erosion and water pollution and ensure general cleanliness of the cottage subdivision. Specific conditions will be arrived at during consultations between the Park Superintendent and the cottage owners. On the termination of the agreement, all improvements on the lot will be removed as per Section II of the present lease or they will revert to the Crown. Lease holders or their heirs will not be compensated for any improvements, however a \$1,500.00 relocation grant will be provided to ensure that removal of structures is carried out carefully and with minimal environmental damage.
4. The rate of rental for the cottage lot will be fixed as provided for in the National Park Lease and License of Occupation Regulations.

COMMENTS: (Write your comments here)

AIR ACCESS

OBJECTIVE:

To define the proper types and levels of air access into the Park to provide for visitor use and enjoyment while still preserving the wilderness character of the Park.

CONSIDERATIONS:

The type of resources protected within the Park and the size of the Park suggest that access and overflights by aircraft can yield benefits in terms of interpreting the Park's values and increasing the awareness and appreciation of Park visitors. Appreciation of such values is often difficult to obtain from the ground because of the type of existing roads, and the size of the Park.

Public comment on this issue was mixed, and limited. Most people who expressed an opinion favoured tight control on air access to maintain the wilderness environment of the Park and to prevent the harassment of wildlife. There were also comments that traditional resource harvesting did not include the use of aircraft in the past and that therefore it should not be permitted now.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. All air access into the Park will continue to be strictly controlled and monitored by the Park Superintendent according to the National Parks Act and Regulations.
2. Parks Canada will encourage the appropriate public use of air space of the Park by providing information on pertinent use regulations and aerial interpretation of Park features. This will be accomplished through the promotion of the most effective flight lines and by providing interpretive material to local outfitters who may become involved in providing air access into the Park for the public.
3. Landings in the park for visitor use purposes will be permitted under the terms of the backcountry use permit, approved by the park superintendent, and subject to the following general conditions:
 - Landings will be by float equipped aircraft and no landing strips will be permitted
 - Resource protection will not be jeopardized
 - Visitor safety concerns will be satisfied
 - Impacts on resource harvesting activities will be non-existent or minimal
 - Landing sites will be designated in the backcountry use permit depending on resource characteristics, seasons, etc.
4. Trappers will be permitted to reach their traplines by air. This type of aircraft will be strictly regulated.
5. Local outfitters, acting as guides for the public who wish access to the Park by aircraft, may be granted backcountry use permits covering specified flight lines and landing sites on a term basis.
6. Access to the Park by aircraft for Park management activities such as search and rescue, wildlife censuses and fire control will be permitted, but controlled.

COMMENTS: *(Write your comments here)*



WATER ACCESS

OBJECTIVE:

To provide an appropriate level of facility development and public information to enable Park visitors to use Park lakes and waterways.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Transportation and access via the rivers and lakes is the historical means of travel in the region. The waterways of the Park originally served as fur trade routes, then later as routes of exploration and ultimately as navigable waterways for paddlewheelers carrying cargoes of freight and passengers. Access and movement by water is therefore an historically appropriate means of access and one that normally results in low environmental impact.

Alternative plan proposals for facilities and visitor services related to water access generated only limited comment. Local and regional communities indicated no real preference for any one particular proposal while comments from the southern centres favoured a combination of all three alternatives, with an emphasis on interpretation.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Parks Canada will work co-operatively with the province of Alberta and other federal government departments to develop a boat launch facility on the Slave River at Fort Fitzgerald.
2. The existing Park boat launch at Hay Camp will be improved, signed and actively promoted.
3. Interpretive river guide brochures will be prepared and made available to boaters when warranted by the public demand.

These items are in addition to other recommendations in the plan which are contained within the proposed facility developments that will encourage water access.

They include:

1. Moose Island boat launch facility.
2. Promotion of tourist outfitters offering guided river tours.
3. Interpretive brochure on the Peace/Athabasca Delta with waterways and maps and charts.
4. Controlled air access to backcountry lakes and rivers.
5. Promotion of a public access facility at Peace Point.

COMMENTS: *(Write your comments here)*

ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION

OBJECTIVE:

To insure that the Park is efficiently administered by developing suitable Park facilities in the most appropriate locations in and adjacent to the Park.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Park administrative facilities must be located, and operated so as to permit efficient management of the Park given its large size and the limited road access available, provide local residents and Park visitors with a high level of service, and recognize the needs and requirements of Park staff. Actual administration practices must take into account the nature of the region in which the Park is located, and the impact of Park administration on the economy and social fabric of the region.

Public comments favoured most of the proposals put forward including decentralization of the warden service, developments of new administration and visitor facilities in Fort Smith and public use of the facilities at Hay Camp. Some comments rejected administrative facility proposals tied to a Peace River road because of opposition to the road concept itself.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Public Works Canada will be asked to provide suitable space for Parks Canada in a new federal building in Fort Smith. If this is not feasible a new Park headquarters will be built by Parks Canada. A visitor information center will be included as part of a new office development.
2. Existing warden service patrol cabins and trails will be upgraded. A new warden station could be established at Garden Creek.
3. The Hay Camp fire control base will be assessed to determine if it could serve as a facility for outdoor education programs during the autumn months. If this assessment determines that this facility could serve this purpose, improvements will be made to permit this use.
4. Orientation facilities will be developed at all entrance points into the Park including Angus Tower, Garden Creek, Old Fort (Embaras Portage), Fort Chipewyan and Salt River. Park interpretation staff will work closely with local and regional tourist organizations to ensure that the public receives suitable information on the Park, its resources and programs.
6. Public meetings will be held in regional communities when required to insure that local residents are aware of Park developments being implemented and to provide opportunities for them to discuss any operational concerns they may have.
7. Park staff will undertake periodic surveys and analyses of visitors to the Park to ensure their requirements are being met and to assess the social and economic implications for the region of the Park.
8. Where feasible, hiring and purchasing practices will favour northern residents.

COMMENTS: *(Write your comments here)*

REGIONAL TOURISM

OBJECTIVE:

To determine the proper role for the Park in the development and promotion of tourism in the region.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Wood Buffalo National Park is viewed as a tourist destination in the South Mackenzie/Northeast Alberta region. A number of the resources in the Park, primarily the bison herds are considered as visitor attractions and the Park itself plays a role in tourist marketing strategies of the GNWT, Travel Alberta, and regional tourist associations.

Public opinion supported most tourism proposals including the continued emphasis on guiding and outfitting operations, assistance in the form of research, promotion, and the policy of encouraging the development of major tourist facilities in communities adjacent to the Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Major Facilities - Commercial accommodation, major recreation facilities and highly developed visitor service facilities will not be provided inside the Park. Parks Canada will encourage the development of such facilities and services by the private sector, or other government agencies, in adjacent communities.
2. Guiding/Outfitting - Parks Canada will continue to actively encourage the development of local outfitting and guiding ventures which provide appropriate visitor opportunities and services.

RECOMMENDATIONS: *(Continued)*

3. Where Parks Canada requires a visitor service to be provided by a concessionaire or outfitter, a call for proposals will be issued and the successful operator chosen by Parks Canada through a review and evaluation of the proposals. Preference will be given to outfitters based in communities in the Park region.
4. Guides and outfitters will continue to be licenced by Parks Canada and activities, travel routes and services of guides will be subject to the approval of the park superintendent. Park guiding licences will take into account the licencing requirements established by the N.W.T. and Alberta governments, as well as Parks Canada's specific requirements.
5. Research - Parks Canada will participate in a regional tourism study and assist in developing a regional tourism plan.
6. Promotion - Parks Canada will continue to promote the use of the Park by providing information and working co-operatively with the public, government agencies, tourist/travel associations and community groups. Park events and activities will continue to be publicized in the region of the Park.

COMMENTS: *(Write your comments here)*

LAND USE ZONING

OBJECTIVE:

To develop a zoning plan for the Park that will insure that future Park developments are compatible with the protection requirements of the natural resources of the Park.

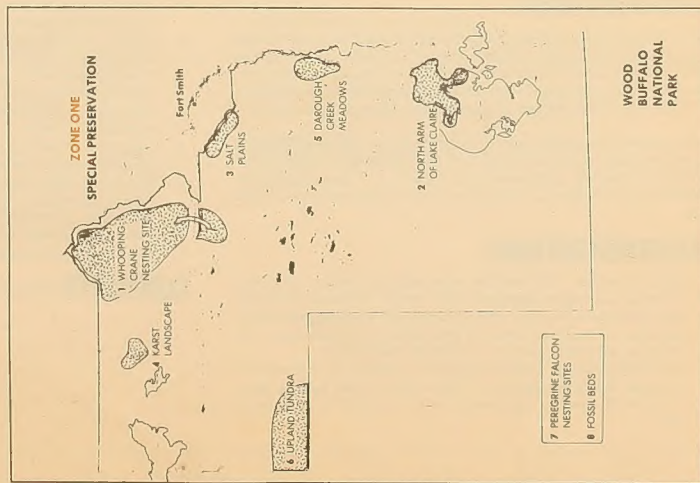
CONSIDERATIONS:

Land Use Zoning is one of the most important tools for the planning, development and management of national parks. The national park zoning system classifies land and water areas of a national park according to their need for protection, their capability to accommodate visitors and facilities and their general significance to the Park, the region and the national park system.

The Land Use Zoning recommendations do not provide for activities of local residents harvesting Park resources. Protection requirements and regulation of these activities are provided for through mechanisms other than the zoning system, primarily the game regulations.

The public generally supported the land use zoning proposals. Some local residents questioned the large areas designated as Zone 1 - Special Protection, and the relatively small areas classed as Zone 4 - Recreation. Other comments included additional information on Park resources including other areas warranting Zone 1 status.

A number of participants felt that more defined zone boundaries were required in order to make a firm recommendation on the zoning proposals.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

ZONE ONE - SPECIAL PRESERVATION AREAS

Eight special preservation areas are recommended and are shown on the adjacent map. These are the specific areas of sites in the Park which deserve special protection because of the unique, rare or endangered features or because they are the best examples of certain natural features. Access and use of such areas will be strictly controlled or may be prohibited.

1. The Whopping Crane Nesting Area

This area is the only natural nesting ground of the cranes left in existence. The nests are scattered over a large wetland area of prime habitat identified at this time is included in the zone 1 designation. If the birds expand their nesting grounds beyond the area boundary, that boundary will be altered to include the additional area.

2. The North Arm of Lake Claire in the Peace / Athabasca Delta

This area is a prime bison grazing and calving ground. At times, several thousand bison may be found there. The vast sedge meadows are the largest undisturbed grasslands left in North America. There is a comprehensive representation of other delta ecosystems and landforms in the area as well.

3. The Salt Plains

These boreal salt plains are aesthetically, ecologically and geographically unique in Canada. Salt springs emerging on the plains create mounds of salt two metres high. Unusual saline plants, bison grazing areas and waterfowl nesting and staging habitat add to the significance of this Park landscape.

4. The Karst Landscape

The assemblage of karst features in the Needle Lake area of the Park includes the largest sinkholes in the Park, a ten mile subterranean section of the Nyarling River and surken valleys. This area is the best representation of a widespread Park landscape.

5. Darough Creek Meadows

These meadows are important grazing and calving grounds for those bison that do not migrate south of the Peace River.

6. Upland Tundra of the Caribou Mountains

The spruce-willow-lichen tundra on the upper surface of the Caribou Mountains, 500 m above the surface of the rest of the Park is a unique landscape within the national park system. No other tundra environment on the interior plains is afforded the protection of a park. (Land exchange proposals which include the potential excision of this area will only be considered if other equitable areas of the plateau are added to the Park in exchange.)

NON-CONFORMING USES

Certain developments and land uses which have occurred in the Park in the past and which remain today are not compatible with the general objectives of National Parks and the present objectives for Wood Buffalo National Park. They conflict with the zoning plan for the Park. Management recommendations specific to those land uses are described elsewhere in this newsletter. The non-conforming uses are as follows:

1. Timber Berth 408 (497 sq. km) on the Peace River flood plain.
2. The community of Garden Creek.
3. The community of Peace Point.

BURIAL GROUNDS AND CEMETERIES

CONSIDERATIONS:

Wood Buffalo National Park has a long and varied human history and seasonal habitation in the Park continues to be a feature of the lifestyle of the region. This situation has resulted in the creation of cemeteries and burial grounds within the Park. These sites of cultural significance are not recommended for special zoning, but warrant recognition and protection. Inclusion in the National Park cemetery regulation is also inappropriate as these regulations are very rigid and restrictive and are not suited to the types of burial grounds found within the Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Parks Canada will take the utmost care to ensure that burial grounds and cemeteries within the Park are not affected by proposed developments. Where necessary and desired, such sites will be identified by appropriate signs. The upkeep for these sites and the wording and appearance of signage will be undertaken jointly by the Park and the community or communities responsible for each burial ground. Information of the location of other sites will be collected and means of safeguarding them developed in conjunction with people of the area.

Use of existing burial grounds in the park will continue to be permitted.



WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK
ZONE FOUR RECREATION

COMMENTS: (Write your comments here)

In addition to these six zone areas, two additional small areas of the Park will be managed as zone one areas but their locations will not be identified due to their sensitivity. They are as follows:

7. **Peregrine Falcon Nesting Sites**
Several nesting sites of these endangered birds exist in the Park.
8. **Fossil Bed**
A significant bed of fish scale fossils that is used by geologists as an important stratigraphic indicator occur at a point on the slope of the Caribou Mountains. Its location will be protected for research requirements.

ZONE TWO - WILDERNESS

Most of the Park will be maintained in a wilderness state. Only certain visitor activities such as hiking and canoeing which require limited facilities will be allowed. Limits will be placed on the numbers of visitors to these areas if necessary. Motorized access will not be permitted.

ZONE THREE - NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The only areas of the Park that fall within this category - intermediate between wilderness and recreation - are the water surfaces of Lake Claire and Mamawi Lake and the Sweetgrass Station to Sweetgrass Landing corridor.

ZONE FOUR - RECREATION

Zone four areas can accommodate a broad range of outdoor recreation activities and the development of related facilities. These include campgrounds, picnic areas, boat launching facilities and scenic roads. Motorized access will be permitted.

Recreation zones in the Park include all major rivers and channels, the highway five corridor and adjacent developed areas, the Peace Point road terminus and boat launch area, the Salt Plains viewpoint and Parson's Lake road corridor, and the Pine Lake recreation area.

ZONE FIVE - PARK SERVICES

Park services zones occur in certain existing national parks which contain concentrations of visitor services and support facilities as well as Park administrative functions. As most significant Park services are located in towns outside of the boundaries of this park (Fort Smith and Fort Chipewyan), no zone five areas are recommended.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

BISON MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVE:

To manage the Park bison in ways that ensure the survival of the herd using a minimum of active management measures.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Public comments on the bison management recommendation presented in the second round of public meetings indicated broad support for them. However, some local native residents stated their desire for a limited annual harvest of bison. Agriculture Canada, the agency responsible for the control of disease in domesticated animals, generally agreed with the plan recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The herd will be allowed to be regulated naturally without the influence of man and active management of the bison of their environment will only be undertaken if man-caused events result in the population dropping to a very low level.

To safeguard against even the most remote potential threats to public safety of health, existing agreements with Agriculture Canada regarding the Animal Disease and Protection Act and Regulation will be maintained. Discussions will be held between Parks Canada and the Alberta and Northwest Territories governments to designate a livestock-free buffer zone adjacent to parts of the Park boundary. Research into the diseases which affect the bison will be undertaken to better understand the part that they play in the regulation of the size of the herd and to develop potential disease-control techniques.

Management techniques which apply stress to the bison (roundups, inoculation programs, collecting specimens, etc.) would only be used when essential to the well-being of the herd and only after review by Parks Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Service and Agriculture Canada.

Public information programs will inform the public of research and management programs.

Monitoring and surveying of the bison herd will continue.

The ecology and management of the bison will continue to be a major theme of the Park interpretation program.

No changes will be made to the game regulations concerning bison.

COMMENTS: *(Write your comments here)*

TIMBER HARVESTING

OBJECTIVE:

To ensure the protection of Park resources within timber berth 408 while continuing to respect the legal basis for the timber operation and to ensure that the domestic use of forest resources is strictly controlled.

CONSIDERATIONS:

During the alternative stage of the planning program regional residents generally accepted the existence of the timber operation and agreed with the recommendation to continue the lease. People living outside of the region strongly rejected the commercial extraction of timber from the Park. Some local residents requested that the domestic use of timber be allowed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

a) TIMBER BERTH 408

Parks Canada will regulate the timber berth license by means of a series of four forest management plans of 5 years duration. Each plan will require the timber company to prepare operational plans which will be subject to the environmental assessment and review process. The inclusion of certain environmental control conditions will be negotiated items of each plan. Examples of control measures which may be included within those operational plans are provisions for river bank and stream reserves, reforestation and measures to reduce the impact of logging on the land.

In addition Parks Canada will actively pursue the selection and protection of ecologically self-contained examples of the flood of plain spruce forest community within the timber berth. The purchase of such stands may occur if a mutually agreeable price can be negotiated with the timber company.

b) DOMESTIC USE OF TIMBER

1. Timber permits for general use will not be granted.
2. Permits for the cutting of logs in the park for trapper's cabins will continue to be granted as provided for in the National Parks Regulations, and when a reasonable alternative source cannot be found outside the park. Timber fees as provided for in the regulations will apply.
3. The special provisions of the timber regulations regarding the granting of permits to religious, educational or charitable institutions in the vicinity of the Park for the cutting of firewood will remain in effect.

COMMENTS: *(Write your comments here)*

HUNTING AND TRAPPING ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVE:

To ensure that the harvesting of Park wildlife under the Park game regulations does not cause wildlife populations to deteriorate in the future.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Wood Buffalo National Park is unique in the national park system in that local native people hunt, trap and fish in the park. This privilege was granted to original residents of the area as an interim measure so that the establishment of the park would not cause undue hardship to those people. It was granted prior to Parks Canada assuming administrative control over the park. This resource harvesting activity has continued through to the present and now occurs throughout the park. It is managed under the Wood Buffalo National Park Game Regulations.

Public reaction to this issue varied widely. Local hunters and trappers strongly suggested that no changes be made and that they be allowed to regulate their activities themselves. People living outside of the region of the Park wanted more emphasis placed on protecting Park wildlife although almost all comments supported the continuance of hunting and trapping to some degree.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The hunting and trapping activities now permitted under the Park game regulations will continue to be permitted in the Park. While these activities were not formally approved when the Park was first established, they are now fully recognized as requirements of and a significant aspect of the culture of the native people residing in the area. They will continue to be managed under the specific provisions of the Wood Buffalo National Park game regulations. No changes in the regulations will take place without the agreement of the Hunters and Trappers Association.

Parks Canada will, by mutual agreement with the hunters and trappers, designate certain areas in the Park in which no hunting and trapping will occur. These protection or "seed" zones would be located in each major habitat type to ensure the survival of wildlife populations, both to attain resource protection objectives and to help sustain the hunting and trapping lifestyle of the harvesters. Such areas will be introduced on a pilot basis initially. Further implementation of this project will only be carried out after extensive study and with the agreement of the hunters and trappers that would be affected.

Setting aside such areas would bring this Park up to the international standards for parks in which traditional resource harvesting occurs. These standards are defined by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

COMMENTS: *(Write your comments here)*



FIRE MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVE:

To manage fires so that their natural influence in the Park environment is maintained while ensuring public safety, protecting settlements and facilities and providing special habitat protection for rare or fragile species.

CONSIDERATIONS:

This issue generated much public comment during earlier public meetings. In general, residents of local communities particularly those directly dependent on Park resources for their livelihood strongly advocated a total fire suppression policy. People who lived outside of the region were more supportive of fire management policies that allowed fire to be used as a resource management tool. A significant number of people suggested that there was not enough information available to make a decision on this issue.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Public Information**
Parks Canada will carry out an active public information program using local media, the Park interpretation program and other means to present information on the ecology of fire in the Park, fire management policies and current news on fire conditions and operations. Opportunities for public involvement and participation when fire management policies are reviewed will also be provided.
2. **Regional Co-ordination**
Parks Canada will ensure that its policies and operations integrate with those of the fire management agencies of the Alberta government and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs in order to maximize the overall effectiveness of regional fire management efforts. Parks Canada will also continue to play a significant role in the development of regional and community emergency measures policies to ensure public safety.
3. **Fire Control**
The procedures and detailed provisions for fire control and management will be specified in a Park Fire Management Plan. This plan will define escape fire analysis, overhead teams and other specific operational methods. In general, initial action will be taken on all fires when possible, but the level of sustained attack will be determined from a priority zone system. Existing fire management areas now defined by those zones will be maintained. Significant changes to the boundaries of those areas will only be undertaken after consultation with those who may be affected.
4. **Fire as a Management Tool**
It is a long-term objective of Parks Canada to manage wild fires in ways that result in fire assuming its approximate natural and historical influence on the Park environment while ensuring that the human, economic and political impacts of fire are carefully considered as well. To that end, background studies and plans such as a Park fire history study and a vegetation management plan, will be completed within the life of this plan. These principles may be applied in the Park during the latter stages of the life of the management plan after thorough public discussion.
5. **Compensation for Losses from Forest Fires**
Parks Canada will not provide compensation to trappers who suffer any loss of equipment, damage to the environment of their trapline or any loss of income as a result of forest fires within the Park. Parks Canada will aid Park trappers affected by forest fires by directing them to assistance programs offered by the Northwest Territories and Alberta governments. Trappers will also be encouraged to take advantage of conventional insurance protection plans. Parks staff will work with trappers whose traplines are no longer viable because of fire in order to relocate them to other areas in the park.

COMMENTS: *(Write your comments here)*

COMMERCIAL FISHING

OBJECTIVE:

To define the position of Parks Canada on commercial fishing in the Park.

COMMENTS: *(Write your comments here)*

CONSIDERATIONS:

Public comment was supportive of Parks Canada's position to not permit commercial fishing in the Park. However some of those regional residents most likely to be involved in commercial fishing strongly supported it.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

No form of commercial fishing will be permitted within the Park.

Both walleye and goldeye populations can be considered as seed sources for fish populations commercially exploited in Lake Athabasca and in lakes and rivers of the delta outside of the Park boundary. The inconnu in Buffalo Lake also provide a seed source for commercial fishing operations outside of the Park, in Great Slave Lake. As the population of those fish species within the Park may be affected by their commercial exploitation outside of the Park and as they are a domestic resource for local native hunters and trappers, Parks Canada will monitor the relationship between external commercial use and the well-being of the Park fish populations and take appropriate action with other agencies if their long term survival is threatened.

PEACE-ATHABASCA DELTA

OBJECTIVE:

To ensure that the natural processes in the delta continue with minimal interference.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Because of its significance, the management policies for the delta were of considerable interest to the public. Residents of local communities who depend on delta resources directly, strongly favoured active water management measures to maintain water levels for trapping and fishing purposes. Other sectors of the public were in favour of Parks Canada developing policies to restore the natural water regime of the delta.

COMMENTS: *(Write your comments here)*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Protection

Parks Canada will strive to ensure that the Peace/Athabasca Delta receives the highest degree of protection and consideration afforded by its policies and regulations. To help achieve that goal, Parks Canada has initiated meetings with the government agencies which constitute the Federal-Provincial Peace/Athabasca Delta Study Group. That group will attempt to find appropriate ways of maintaining a regime similar to that which existed prior to the pre-Bennett Dam era.

Monitoring

A long term program will be established to detect changes in the delta environment and to determine ways of appropriately correcting them. The specific environmental characteristics of the delta which will be monitored include vegetation, wildlife, environmental pollutants and resource use.

Public Consultation

Parks Canada will ensure that the people of Fort Chipewyan, the people most directly affected by conditions in the delta, are fully aware of studies, policies and management measures related to the delta. The participation of local residents will be sought during the development of management policies. Where possible, management measures that benefit both the Park environment and local residents will be selected.

Water Management

Park trappers will be permitted to develop small scale water management projects at their own cost to partially reverse low water conditions caused by the Bennett Dam, particularly those affecting perched basins. Such projects will require the approval of the Park Superintendent and must be designed and constructed as interim measures only. They will also be subject to the Federal Environmental Assessment and Review Process.

PARK BOUNDARIES

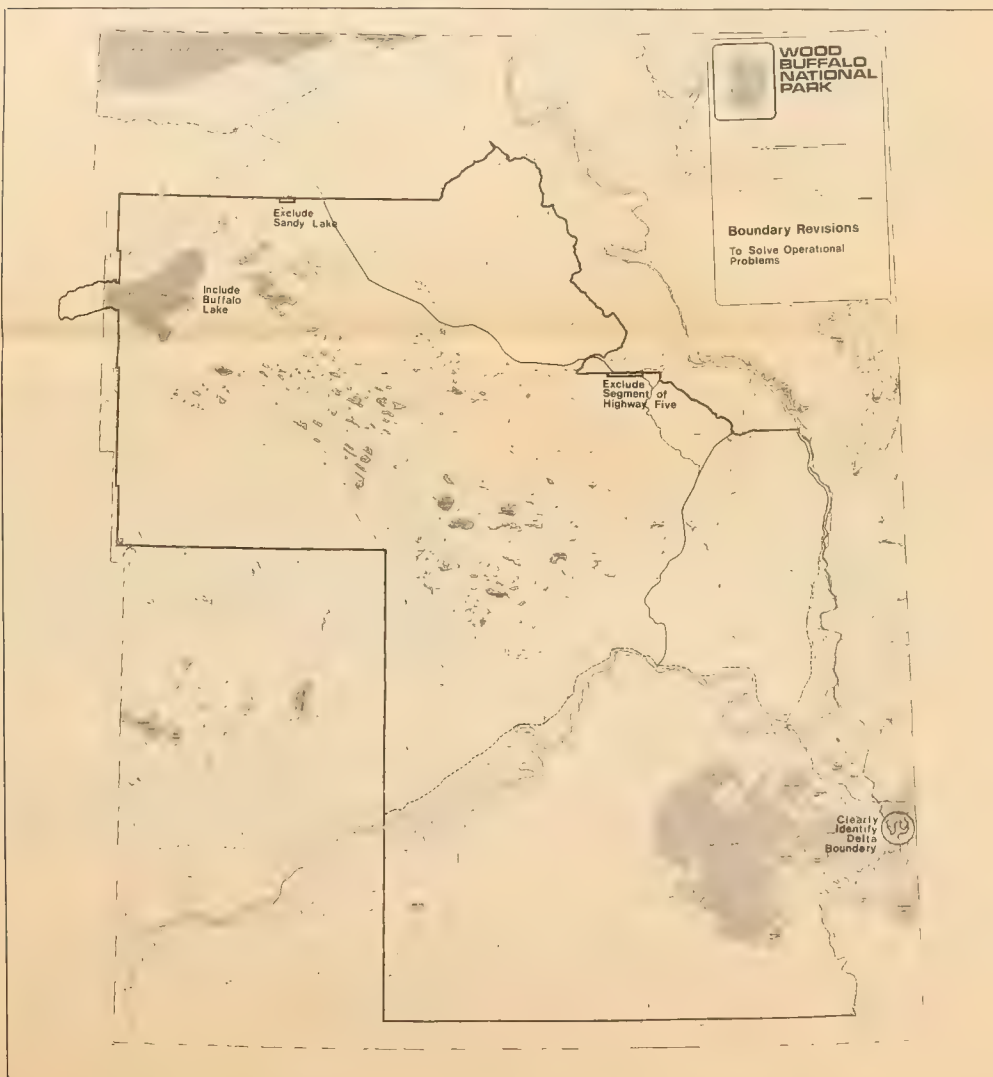
OBJECTIVE:

To alter the Park boundary where necessary in order to overcome current operational problems and to improve the Parks representation of the natural history themes of the area.

CONSIDERATIONS:

The Park boundary was originally drawn to protect the bison range but other Park features subsequently discovered now help justify the existing boundary. The western and southern boundaries are artificial straight lines which are difficult to locate on the ground. Also, some questions remain as to whether the Park protects the most valuable resources in this area or if there are areas within the Park which, while valuable and needed for Park purposes could nevertheless be exchanged for even more valuable and essential Park lands elsewhere.

The boundary proposals did not generate a great deal of public discussion. Government agencies generally supported the principle of discussions on boundary changes. Local communities supported the proposals to resolve administrative problems caused by the existing boundary and the proposals that would reduce the area included within the Park. Comments received from participants in other areas were often non-committal. Some wished the Park to remain as is, and stressed that boundary changes should not be made that would alter the number and type of natural features currently represented in the Park.



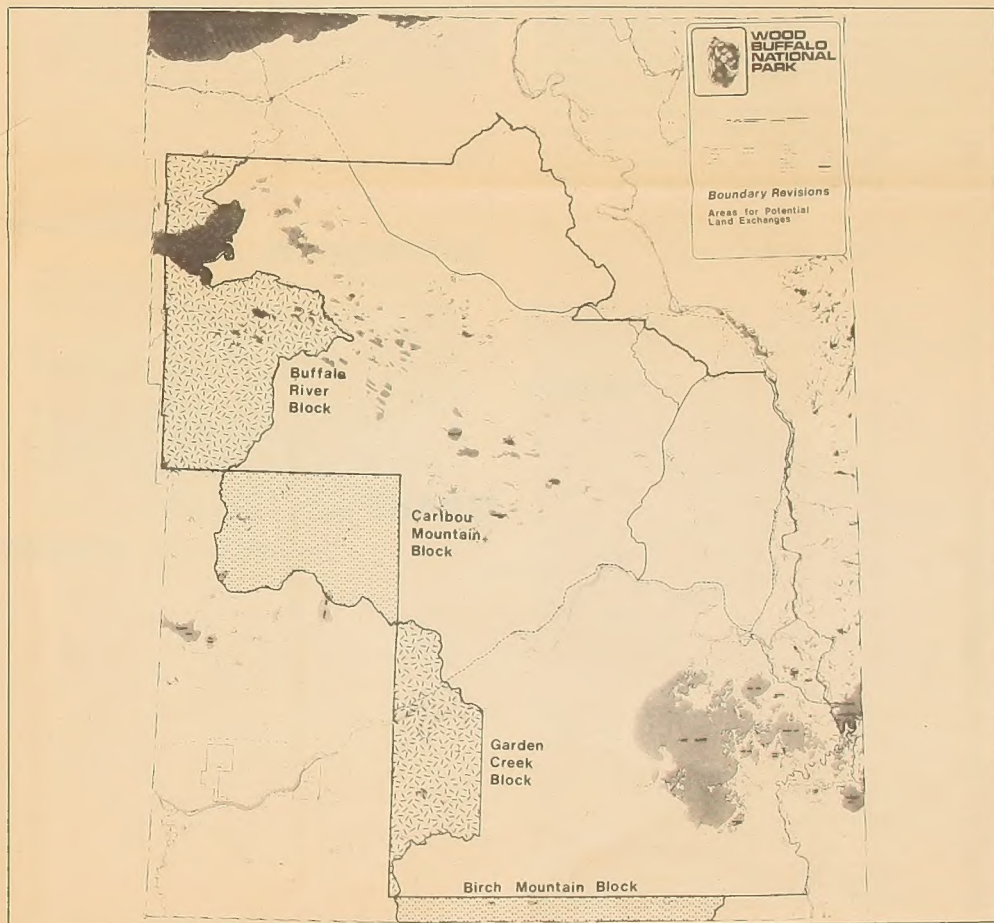
RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Parks Canada will strive to alter the Park boundary to minimize certain operational problems as shown on the map at left by:
 - a) including the entire surface of Buffalo Lake within the Park.
 - b) excluding that portion of Sandy Lake now within the Park when the Territorial Parks Branch indicates a need to have jurisdiction over the entire lake for the purpose of developing a territorial park.
 - c) establishing a fixed, identifiable boundary between the mouth of the Embarras River and the Riviere des Rocher in the Peace/Athabasca Delta.
 - d) Adjust the boundary as shown to exclude a small part of the park along Highway 5.

Parks Canada will also clear those boundary lines which have overgrown so they can be more readily identified.

2. Parks Canada will negotiate the exchange of Park land for other lands of greater value to the national park system, on the following basis:
 - a) An expression of intent on the part of the GNWT and/or the Alberta Government to enter into discussions on boundary changes will be required.
 - b) The lands in question will be limited to the Buffalo Lake, Caribou Mountain, Garden Creek and Birch Mountain areas as shown on the map below.
 - c) Studies of all aspects of the use, capabilities and resource protection requirements of the candidate land exchange areas will be undertaken, with appropriate opportunities for public participation.
 - d) Upon completion of these studies, the ministers involved will determine if they wish to proceed with a memorandum of agreement to exchange lands, subject to parliamentary approval to excise the Park lands in question.

COMMENTS: *(Write your comments here)*



SLAVE RIVER HYDRO PROJECT

OBJECTIVE:

To ensure that the Slave River Hydro project does not have a negative effect on Park resources.

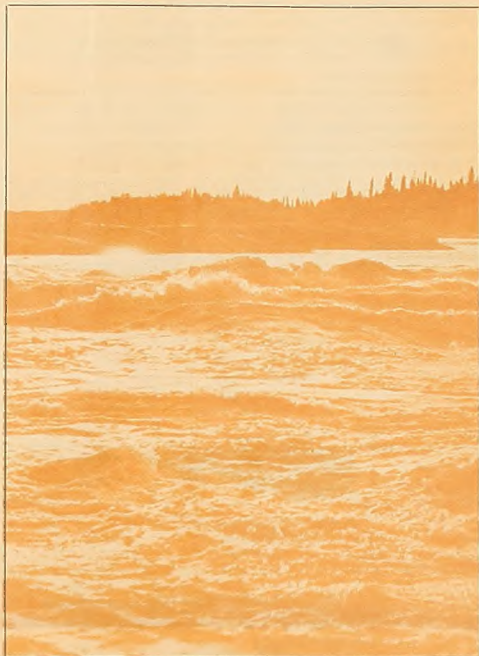
CONSIDERATIONS:

For the past two years, the Government of Alberta has been examining the feasibility of developing a hydro electric project at the Slave River Rapids, approximately 25 kms downstream from the north-east boundary of the Park. Alberta officials have recently announced that they will proceed with the design of the project.

This development is of particular interest to Parks Canada as it could have significant effects on Parks lands along the Slave River and on water bodies further upstream. The exact nature of the effects would be dependent on the precise location of any dam, the type of structure to be constructed and the location of power lines. Potential areas of impact include the resources located in proximity to the east Park boundary along the Slave River, and the Peace/Athabasca Delta.

Parks Canada has referred the Slave River Hydro project to the Federal Environmental Assessment and Review office for a full review of the proposed development. Environmental assessment guidelines have been prepared and will be discussed publicly.

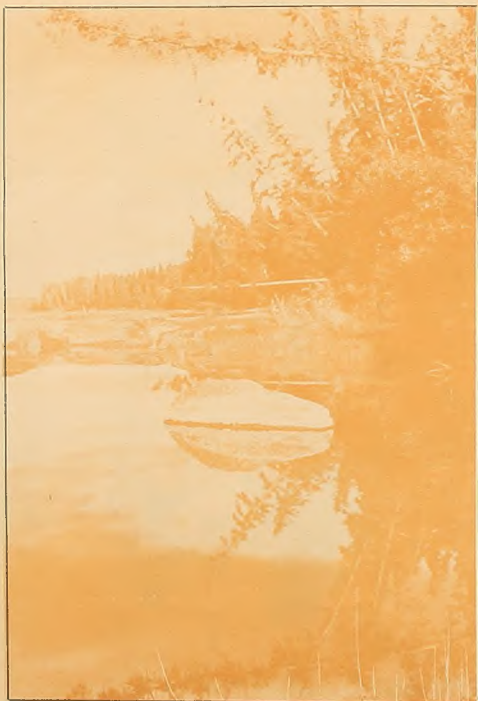
Public comment on Parks Canada's position on the proposed Slave River Dam and the project itself was varied. Local communities focussed on the potential for environmental damage to the area. A lack of real knowledge of the project prevented many local residents from stating positions on the proposed dam or the Parks Canada position. Regional communities were mixed in their reaction, some favouring development, while others expressed concern over the ex-cision of park lands for hydro electric developments. Concern over environmental damage, opposition to a major hydro electric project and Parks Canada's position was expressed by a number of residents of communities in central Alberta and other areas.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Parks Canada will not permit any flooding of Park lands or any associated negative impact on Park lands that may result from a dam being constructed on the Slave River.
2. Construction of a transmission line corridor within the Park will only be considered if alternate routes outside the Park cannot be found, and then only if there is no significant negative impact on the Park environment.
3. Parks Canada will provide input into the environmental guidelines recommended by the Panel and make their position known at public meetings to be held by the Panel on the project, so that the full impact of the dam on Park resources can be understood.

COMMENTS: *(Write your comments here)*



GARDEN CREEK

OBJECTIVE:

To find the best course of action for the future development of Garden Creek which satisfies both the desires of the community and the policies of Parks Canada.

CONSIDERATIONS:

This native settlement, located 12 km inside the west boundary of Wood Buffalo National Park, has no clearly defined status. It is evolving from a collection of trappers' cabins into a permanent community with all of the service requirements of a small town (school, road access, airstrip, power supply, etc.) and the understandable desire to determine its own future. Responsibility for the community is divided primarily between Parks Canada, and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Because of these factors, a more clearly defined status for the community is required. It is the policy of Parks Canada not to allow any new towns to be established within National Parks.

Ultimately it would benefit both the residents of Garden Creek and Parks Canada if the community could develop under its own control and not be constrained by the National Parks Act. This could only be accomplished if the community were excised from the Park. It could then have status as a native reserve or as a settlement under the jurisdiction of Alberta.

Many people who commented on the alternative plan proposals supported the proposal for excisement of the community put forward at the second stage of the program. There was also the view expressed that the residents themselves should determine their own future in discussions with Parks Canada and that non-residents should not be involved in the decision. A number of compromise solutions were also proposed. The residents themselves did not support the excisement proposal and lobbied for an arrangement that would permit the community to remain within the Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Parks Canada will work with the residents of Garden Creek to more fully understand the implications and advantages of various community options.
2. Parks Canada will enter into a formal agreement with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs to have that department assume responsibility for the development of the community. The extent of the community has already been defined by survey. The land itself, however, will remain as national park land so that protection will still be given to Park resources within the surveyed area and they can be managed accordingly.
3. A final decision on the status of Garden Creek community will be made following a review of the management plan in 1988.
4. Hunting and trapping privileges of the residents of Garden Creek will not be affected in any way by these studies and eventual status decisions.

COMMENTS: *(Write your comments here)*

LAND CLAIMS

OBJECTIVE:

To establish a Parks Canada position for resolving the land claims of the Cree Band of Fort Chipewyan which directly affect the Park.

CONSIDERATIONS:

All public comments emphasized the importance of settling the land claims affecting the Park as soon as possible and in an equitable manner. The Cree Band of Fort Chipewyan disapproved of any Parks Canada involvement in the settlement process. Other Parks Canada public comments noted the importance of Peace Point to the Park and supported a settlement that would minimize the area of Peace Point land lost from the Park.

Parks Canada accepts the right of the Cree Band of Fort Chipewyan to claim lands within Wood Buffalo National Park under the terms of Treaty 8. An initial claim accepted in principle, involved 43,000 acres of Park land including Peace Point (19,013 acres, 29.7 sq. miles) and Embarras River (22,967 acres, 35.9 sq. miles).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Because of the importance of resources in the Peace Point area (gypsum cliffs, peregrine falcon nests, archaeological sites) and because of the operational difficulties that would be created by an enclave settlement, the land area claimed at Peace Point, should not increase in size. In addition, it would be preferable if the claim in that area was withdrawn. In exchange, Parks Canada would be prepared to provide new sites within the Park of equal or greater area to fulfill the claim requirements. Areas in the southeast corner of the Park adjacent to the existing Embarras claim are proposed by Parks Canada for this purpose. In the event that land at Peace Point and Embarras River are claimed, the remainder of the entitlement will have to be found outside of the Park.
2. The entire entitlement as defined in Treaty 8 should not be satisfied by Park land. The responsibility of Alberta should be recognized in the settlement.

The comprehensive native claims now in progress that may affect the territorial portion of the Park have not progressed to the point where Parks Canada could present a well-defined position relative to them.

COMMENTS: *(Write your comments here)*

WHAT'S NEXT?

Public meetings are scheduled as shown at right so you can review and discuss the draft management plan recommendations presented in this newsletter.

Following the conclusion of these meetings, a newsletter will be prepared summarizing your comments and ideas. The information gathered through the public participation program will also be used to refine and revise the recommendations as required.

After the completion of this third stage of the program, the Park management plan plus related material to support the recommendations contained in the plan will be submitted to the Minister of Environment for review and approval. When this approval has been granted, another newsletter will be prepared and distributed to inform you of the final approved plan decisions. A formal summary of the plan will also be prepared and made available.

FURTHER INFORMATION

More detailed information on the recommendations and the process used to prepare the draft management plan is available by contacting the planning team.

It is not too late to get on the mailing list and become part of the planning process. By mailing the card below, you can receive copies of the six previous newsletters which describe the planning process, the Park and issues, discuss public views expressed during the first and second stage of the program, and outline the alternative plan proposals.

Add my name to the mailing list. ☐

Send me copies of newsletters 1-6. ☐
Parks Canada is initiating a Management Planning Program for Nahanni National Park Reserve.

If you would like to help plan the future of Nahanni by participating in the development of the Management Plan, please check box at right. ☐

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____

WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK

MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROGRAM

BOX 750
FORT SMITH, N.W.T.
XOE 0P0

WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK Proposed Management Plan Meeting Schedule

DATE	TIME	TYPE OF MEETING	CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE	LOCATION
13 Sept.	7:30 pm	Public	Peace Point	Public School
15 Sept.	7:30 pm	Public	Fort Smith, N.W.T.	PWK High School (Foyer)
16 Sept.	2:30 pm	Drop-in	Fort Smith, N.W.T.	PWK High School (Resource Centre)
20 Sept.	7:30 pm	Public	Pine Point, N.W.T.	Malonabee School
21 Sept.	7:30 pm	Public	Fort Vermillion, Alta.	St. Mary's Separate School
22 Sept.	7:30 pm	Public	High Level, Alta.	High Level Public School
23 Sept.	7:30 pm	Public	Hay River, N.W.T.	Plarmigan Inn
24 Sept.	2:30 pm	Public	Hay River, N.W.T.	Band Hall
26 Sept.	7:30 pm	Public	Fort McMurray, Alta.	Peter Pond Hotel (Meeting Room)
29 Sept.	6:30 pm	Public	Fort Chipewyan, Alta.	Public School
30 Sept.	2:30 pm	Drop-in	Fort Chipewyan, Alta.	Public School
07 Oct.	7:30 pm	Public/Drop-in	Yellowknife, N.W.T.	Room 206 - North, United Pl.
12 Oct.	2:00 pm	Public	Garden Creek, WBNP	R.C. Church
13 Oct.	2:00 pm	Public	Fox Lake, Alta.	JBS School-library
14 Oct.	7:30 pm	Public	Jean D'Or Prairie, Alta.	School Gym
18 Oct.	7:00 pm	Public	Fort Resolution, N.W.T.	Deninoo School
19 Oct.	7:30 pm	Public	Edmonton, Alta.	Provincial Museum Auditor.
20 Oct.	2:00 pm	Drop-in	Edmonton, Alta.	Mus. Rm., Library 7 Churchill Sq.
21 Oct.	7:30 pm	Public	Calgary, Alta.	Highlander Motor Hotel

From: _____

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